

Museum at Paris. Although the specimen lacks the lower leaves there can be no doubt whatever that it is *Brassica nigra* and that it bears the original label of Fournier. Furthermore the specimen corresponds so closely to the description of *S. niagarensis* that there can be no reason to suspect a confusion of specimens and labels. The name *S. niagarensis*, Fourn., may, therefore, be transferred from the synonymy of *S. officinale*, L., to that of *Brassica nigra*, Koch, and one more question mark, of some years' standing, may thus be eliminated from American systematic botany. — B. L. ROBINSON.

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THE VEGETATION OF PLYMOUTH THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. — In the Rev. Alexander Young's "Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers from 1602-1625" there is a short account of the natural productions of the Plymouth shore. The vegetation is thus described:

"The land for the crust of the earth is a spit's depth, excellent black mould, and fat in some places; and vines everywhere, cherry-trees, plum-trees, and many others which we know not. Many kinds of herbs we found here in the winter, as strawberry leaves innumerable, sorrel, yarrow, carval, brooklime, liverwort, water-cresses, great store of leek and onions, and an excellent kind of flax or hemp."

Only three of the plants mentioned seem to require comment. What plant is intended by "carval" I do not know. Possibly the word is a variant of "carvies," said to be a vernacular name for *Carum Carui*, L. If this be the case the observer must have mistaken some indigenous Umbellifer for the European species, as he might easily do. It seems less probable that he could have failed to recognize two such familiar herbs as sorrel and water-cress, or have intended by those names any other plants than *Rumex Acetosella*, L., and *Nasturtium officinale*, R. Br.

Yet botanists agree in considering both as introduced species in North America. This testimony throws the date of the introduction very far back. When and by what means had they migrated, that the Pilgrims should find them already in possession of the virgin soil?

It appears probable that some curious and useful information concerning the primeval vegetation of the Atlantic coast might be gleaned from the accounts of contemporary writers. But this research, perhaps, may already have been made.—S. B. PARISH, San Bernardino, California.